



February 13, 2019

The Honorable Anna Eshoo
Chairperson
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Health
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael Burgess, MD
Ranking Member
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Health
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairperson Eshoo and Ranking Member Burgess:

On behalf of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), which represents 131,400 family physicians and medical students across the country, I write to share the organization's support for three important bills under discussion today's hearing: *Strengthening our Health Care System: Legislation to Reserve ACA Sabotage and Ensure Pre-Existing Conditions Protections*.

Based on the organization's health care for all principles,ⁱ the AAFP is pleased to support the *Marketing and Outreach Restoration to Empower Health Education Act of 2019* (HR 987), *legislation to prohibit the expansion of short-term, limited duration insurance plans* (HR 1010), and the *Educating Consumers on the Risks of Short-Term Plans Act of 2019* (HR 1143).

The AAFP believes that all people regardless of social, economic or political status, race, religion, gender or sexual orientation should have access to primary medical care and other essential health care services. Care should be comprehensive, affordable, and include protections for those with financial hardships. Having both health insurance and a usual source of care (e.g., through an ongoing relationship with a family physician) contributes to better health outcomes, reduced disparities along socioeconomic lines, and reduced costs.ⁱⁱ

We are pleased to comment on these bills and look forward to working with you to advance comprehensive health care policies. For more information, please contact Sonya Clay, Government Relations Representative, at 202-232-9033 or sclay@aafp.org.

Sincerely,

Michael L. Munger, MD, FFAFP
Board Chair

Cc: Representatives Lisa Blunt Rochester and Kathy Castor

STRONG MEDICINE FOR AMERICA

President
John Cullen, MD
Valdez, AK

President-elect
Gary LeRoy, MD
Dayton, OH

Board Chair
Michael Munger, MD
Overland Park, KS

Directors
Robert Raspa, MD, *Orange Park, FL*
Leonard Reeves, MD, *Rome, GA*
Ada Stewart, MD, *Columbia, SC*
Sterling Ransone, MD, *Deltaville, VA*
Windel Stracener, MD, *Richmond, IN*
Erica Swegler MD, *Austin, TX*

James Eltzy, MD, *Washington, DC*
Dennis Gingrich, MD, *Hershey, PA*
Tochi Iroku-Malize, MD, *Bay Shore, NY*
LaTasha Seliby Perkins, MD (New Physician Member), *Arlington, VA*
Michelle Byrne, MD (Resident Member), *Chicago, IL*
Chandler Stisher (Student Member), *Brownsboro, AL*

Speaker
Alan Schwartzstein, MD
Oregon, WI

Vice Speaker
Russell Kohl, MD
Stilwell, KS

Executive Vice President
Douglas E. Henley, MD
Leawood, KS

ⁱ AAFP, Health Care For All (2014), available at <http://www.aafp.org/about/policies/all/health-care-for-all.html>

ⁱⁱ See, e.g., The Robert Graham Center, The Importance of Having Health Insurance and a Usual Source of Care, Am. Fam. Physician (Sept. 15, 2004), available at <http://www.aafp.org/afp/2004/0915/p1035.html>.